Text as Data

Justin Grimmer

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October 2nd, 2014

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- 4) Validation (Model checking) → weight (model) checking, replication of hand coding, face validity

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Key point: this is the same task

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- Positions on legislation
 - \Rightarrow { Support, Ambiguous, Oppose }
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Style/Tone: How is it said?

- Taunting in floor statements
 - \Rightarrow { Partisan Taunt, Intra party taunt, Agency taunt, ... }
- Negative campaigning
 - \Rightarrow { Negative ad, Positive ad}

DICTION

DICTION is a computer-aided text analysis program for Windows® and Mac® that uses a series of dictionaries to search a passage for five semantic features—Activity, Optimism, Certainty, Realism an Commonality—as well as thirty-five sub-features. DICTION uses predefined dictionaries and can use up to thirty custom dictionaries built with words that the user has defined, such as topical or negative words, for particular research needs.

DICTION

DICTION 7, now with *Power Mode*, can read a variety of text formats and can accept a large number of files within a single project. Projects containing over 1000 files are analyzed using *power analysis* for enhanced speed and reporting efficiency, with results automatically exported to .csv-formatted spreadsheet file.

DICTION

On an average computer, DICTION can process over 20,000 passages in about five minutes. DICTION requires 4.9 MB of memory and 38.4 MB of hard disk space.

DICTION

provides both social scientific and humanistic understandings"

—Don Waisanen, Baruch College

DICTION

DICTION 7 for Mac (Educational) (\$219.00)

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Dictionary Methods

Many Dictionary Methods (like DICTION)

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1) Proprietary

Many Dictionary Methods (like DICTION)

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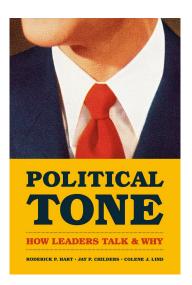
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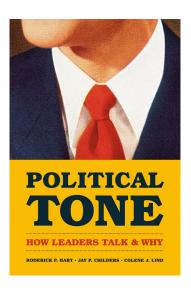
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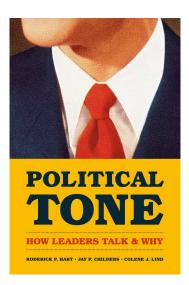




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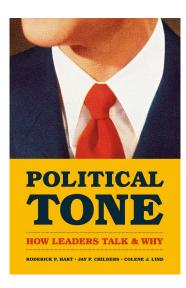


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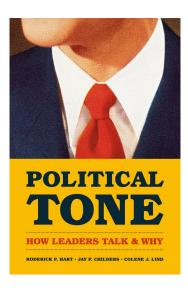
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Applies DICTION to a wide array of political texts



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Applies DICTION to a wide array of political texts
Examine specific periods of American political history

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Generating New Words

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Applying Methods to Documents Applying the model:

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 $Y_i < 0 \Rightarrow$ Negative Category

 $Y_i \approx 0$ Ambiguous

- Collection of 169,779 press releases (US House members 2005-2010)

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Python code and press releases

Least positive members of Congress:

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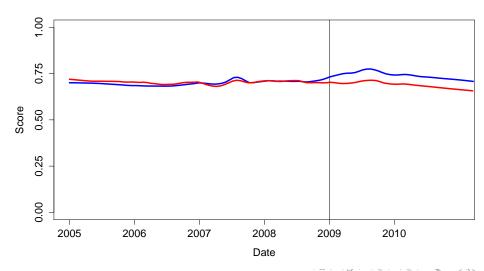
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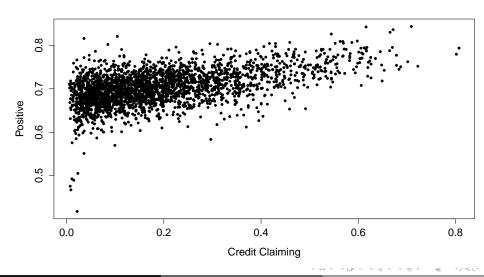
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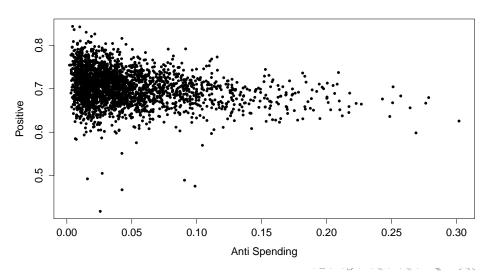
Legislators who are more extreme→ less positive in press releases

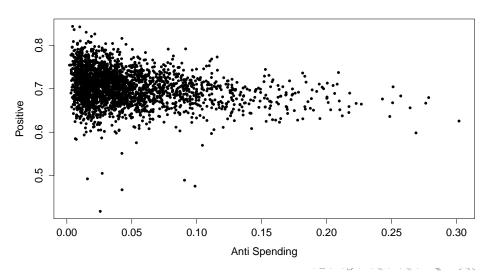


- Credit Claiming press release: 9.1 percentage points "more positive" than a non-credit claiming press release

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- Anti-spending press release: 10.6 percentage points "less positive" than a non-anti spending press release







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- Supervised learning classification: (Cross)validation

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 - Limited working memory
 - Ambiguity in classification rules
- A procedure for training coders:
 - 1) Coding rules
 - 2) Apply to new texts
 - 3) Assess coder agreement (we'll discuss more in a few weeks)
 - 4) Using information and discussion, revise coding rules

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Guess	Liberal	Conservative
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Measures of classification performance

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$$F_{\text{Liberal}} = \frac{ 2 \text{Precision}_{\text{Liberal}} \text{Recall}_{\text{Liberal}}}{ \text{Precision}_{\text{Liberal}} + \text{Recall}_{\text{Liberal}}}$$

Under reported for dictionary classification

What about continuous measures?

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Necessarily more complicated

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Lower level classification

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Lower level classification → label phrases and then aggregate Modifiable areal unit problem in texts → aggregating destroys information, conclusion may depend on level of aggregation

Accounting Research: measure tone of 10-K reports

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- tone matters (\$)

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Previous state of art: Harvard-IV-4 Dictionary applied to texts

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- 73% of Harvard negative words in this set(!!!!!)

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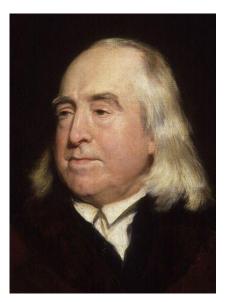
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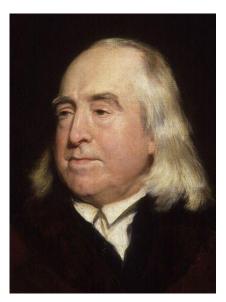
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 Quantifying Happiness: How happy is society?



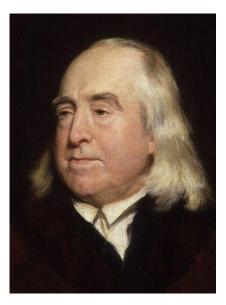
- Quantifying Happiness: How happy is society?
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Use Dictionary Methods

Dodds and Danforth (2009): Use a dictionary method to measure happiness

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$$\mathsf{Happiness}_{i} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{K} \theta_{k} X_{ik}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} X_{ik}}$$

"She was more like a beauty queen from a movie scene.

And mother always told me, be careful who you love.

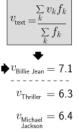
And be careful of what you do 'cause the lie becomes the truth.

Billie Jean is not my lover,

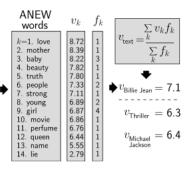
She's just a girl who claims

that I am the one.

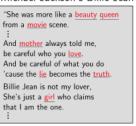


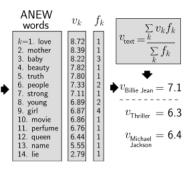






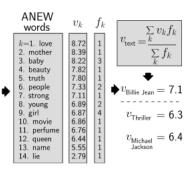
Homework Hints: One approach: write a for loop searching for words in dictionary (caution: is dictionary stemmed?)





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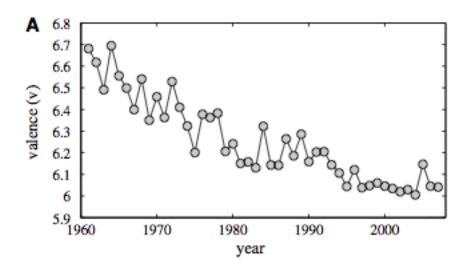


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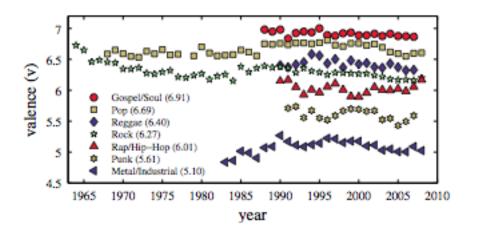
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P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) (This is the right answer!)

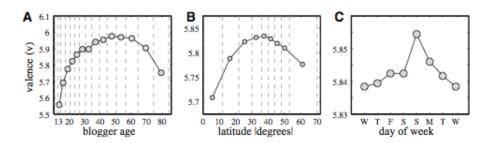
Happiness in Society



Happiness in Society



Happiness in Society



Dictionary Methods

Today: Classification via Dictionaries

Next week: Seperating Words and the Geometry of Text

Good luck on the homework!